



Did you see the musical 'Alchemy' on 2 March 2010 in the SBI Assembly Hall? It was such a wonderful performance that we got hold of the producer and cast for an interview. Besides that, we recap what TY Radio and Chatteris have been doing and promote their upcoming events. We also keep you informed about the Chinese New Year activities and the Putonghua choral speaking workshops. A teacher from New Zealand will tell you some of his opinions about HK English. Lastly, we have the winners of the Chinese and English word puzzles! Each will be awarded a distinctive certificate from the Language Centre.

It's also time for us to say good-bye until the next academic year. Wish you good luck for the coming exams!

The Production of the English Musical 'Alchemy'

Bravo! The audience had certainly been entertained as the curtains fell after the 9th and final scene of the Language Centre's musical 'Alchemy' on 2 March 2010 in the SBI Assembly Hall. The thrilling show, filled with lively songs and dances, involved 32 student actors and actresses from IVE (Tsing Yi) and SBI as well as a 40 strong production team. The man behind this production is the Language Centre's very own Mr Wong Wing Man. He is the playwright, lyricist and producer of Alchemy. To learn more about the musical and its production process, we interviewed its mastermind. Here is what he said...

On his commitment to keep on producing plays and musicals:

I would say I am quite devoted to producing plays and musicals. This is the fourth production of mine in IVE (Tsing Yi) and also the largest scale one. Through staging a play, the students are learning a number of generic skills like collaboration, communication, and confidence. These are the things that make them grow. The students will grow after they go on stage. That is my belief. That is why I keep running shows every year to let students experience acting. After they experience the stage, they appear to be more confident when they have to face their future challenges. This is something truly amazing.

On his inspiration for Alchemy:

I was inspired by the novel called 'The Alchemist'. It talked about a boy who is on his way to find his dream. On the journey he met an Alchemist who taught him Alchemy so he was able to overcome certain difficulties and eventually he fulfilled his dream. I borrowed some of the concepts from that novel and intertwined them with the environmental issues which make up the play.



Mr. Wong Wing Man, the mastermind of Alchemy



Dorothy plays the protagonist Moses (middle) & the enchanting gypsy girls



Christine plays the Tempest who is accusing man of ruining the natural environment



The full cast enjoyed their performance very much

On making the play on stage:

English musicals in Hong Kong are not common. It's hard for you to find a play script in Hong Kong. If you are using a readymade one then it could cost you a fortune to buy the royalty of the play. So if I write it, it's mine. It took me about four months to write the script of Alchemy alongside the teaching and other duties. Then I asked some friends of mine to produce the music for me. With language support from teachers of the Language Centre like Michael, Tristan, Billy and Monica, it took us about two months to get the students ready to go on stage. I believe the students were not aware of the scale of the show. At the beginning they were interested in acting and dancing, but their devotion was not as strong as it was one week before the show. Once they got the sense they had to face the audience they got tense and they started to realise they've got to work hard.

We extend our gratitude to the campus management for their generous support and funding. Furthermore, without the Language Centre's full gear of backup in logistics and assistance of all kinds, this truly marvelous show would not have taken place.

"It was a challenging experience. I've never tried a musical before, and I thought it would be fun, so I just joined it. I've learnt more than I expected."



Chelsea plays the glamorous Ocean

"If we had one more opportunity, we would do much better."



Gloria plays the smart Pirate Rosa

"The most difficult part in acting is memorising the script. I missed some of the script when I performed. Luckily Moses picked it up and no one knew. I feel that my English has improved after the performance."



Eric plays the wise Grandpa



傳統揮春(員工組)優勝作品
分別是冠(左)、亞、季



《雙星喜迎春》

《雙星喜迎春》的寫揮春及猜燈謎比賽已完滿結束。是次參賽者非常踴躍，我們共收到 161 份揮春作品，70 份猜燈謎表格。揮春作品經前教育統籌局課程發展處高級課程發展主任林章新先生評審，三組優勝者已順利選出。



創意揮春組得獎作品
分別是冠(左)、亞(下)、季

新春燈謎答案

1. 千 2. 田伯光 3. 胖 4. 坎 5. 元朗 6. 關心妍 7. 簽
8. 愛不釋手 9. 無間道 10. 上戶彩 11. 不翼而飛
12. 言而無信 13. 春聯 14. 地圖 15. 重慶

Answers for Riddles

1. A coffin
2. His father was standing in front of him when he was born. His mother died while giving birth to him. Finally he grew up to be a priest and married his sister at her wedding ceremony.
3. A butterfly
4. An ocean
5. A die (dice)
6. The third. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead.
7. A wedding ring
8. The temperature
9. A blink of an eye
10. Light
11. A dress → address
12. An apple / a pepper
13. 3 correct answers: caress, princess, brass
14. A doorbell
15. Night and Day



傳統揮春(學生組)得獎作品
分別是冠軍(左)、雙季軍及亞軍(下)



Chatteris

April has been a fantastic month for English activities with such exciting workshops as **How To Play Texas Hold 'Em**, **How To Sell Ray Guns To Somali Pirates**, **Build Your Own Monster** and of course, the always popular **How To Rob A Bank**.

All that attended had a good time and English is being spoken almost non-stop in the English Corner these days.

If you haven't finished your ILLP by now, see Tristan in the English Corner (D331) as soon as possible. May promises to be just as exciting for activities as other times. So come by to sign up for activities or to chat to your favorite 'Gweilo', Tristan.

Student Ambassadors' Reflections

Cheung Wing Yee (Gloria) BSM-HDCSAP-2a

I like to go to the English Corner to participate in the many fun activities that go on there. My favorite activity was the Valentine's Day event because as an English Ambassador, I got to dress like a tiger with a pair of ears and a tail. The games were fun too, but the costume was the best.

The English Corner is a good place to improve your English because Tristan doesn't understand Cantonese. There are a lot of interesting activities, too, and you can spend a lot of time participating in the activities and gain many things from them.

Cheung Po Yiu (Chelsea) BSM-HDCSAP-2a

For me, the English Corner has been quite comfortable and I often treat it like my second home. It's a good place for doing projects and homework and I also get help with my English.

I became an English Ambassador in order to have more chances to practice my English and it has improved.

If you want to improve your English, you should come to the English Corner. You just have to be brave and talk.



Tristan and EAT Nazia pose as Tigupids (creatures that are both fierce and full of magical love because they are half tiger, half cupid) for Valentine's day.





TY Radio



TY Radio continues to bring high quality programmes to your ears. Since the last issue of Language Connect we have continually produced entertaining shows covering a variety of topics and themes.

Former colleague of the Language Centre, IVE (Tsing Yi) and doctor of popular music, Dr Stella Lau, could not resist joining us from IVE (Lee Wai Lee) for the Michael Jackson Tribute Show. Dr. Lau even participated in the live performance of a Jackson 5 song alongside her students. On the topic of live performances, our ears were graced with yet more impressive live music during our Coldplay show. We also had a somewhat unexpected karaoke duet during our Lifestyles show. But it's not just about live performances. The TY Radio studio has witnessed our students tackle some serious topics including their dreams and aspirations, controversial celebrities and Hong Kong stereotypes to name but a few. Make sure you check out our complete archive section over at <http://tyradio.vtc.edu.hk>

For the latest schedule please check the display screen outside the Language Centre



Dr. Stella Lau and her students from Lee Wai Lee IVE join Michael for the Michael Jackson tribute show

我當上了廣播員

很榮幸老師給了我一次機會參與 TYRadio 的活動。

開始老師說要選同學的時候我被抽中了，當時我想，雖然老師說我的普通話不錯，但我對自己沒有信心，所以十分緊張，有一點兒顧慮。當時距離正式播音還有一星期，我蒐集了一些有關我們所做節目的主題「過新年」的資料，為節目做準備。

播音開始時，我跟另外兩位參加的同學都感到十分緊張，畢竟在學生餐廳內進行現場廣播，對大家來說都是第一次！後來大家不斷談論不同的話題，就像閒時與朋友聊天，心情放鬆了一點兒，也變得敢於發言。一個小時的節目時間過得很快，但在這一小時內我得著了不少，例如了解到香港跟內地新年不同的習俗，令我獲益良多。此外，這次廣播令我開始大膽起來，更加自信。

我和同學們都很享受這次活動，希望日後有機會再次參與。



鄭韻芝

資訊及通訊科技系

商業分析高級文憑 21 900F/2a



Tristan enjoys himself as Angel and Rachel deliver a completion winning duet

朗誦工作坊

青衣語文中心於今年 2 月至 4 月舉辦的「普通話朗誦表演工作坊」，邀請到朗誦名家蔣治中老師親臨指導，吸引了來自各院校的師生踴躍參加。以下是幾位參加了《普通話朗誦表演工作坊》同學的感受。

工程系 電機工程高級文憑 71301S

潘偉麟

我從小就對普通話沒甚麼好感，但又說不上是厭惡。從前學習普通話時，只會感到乏味。今年經過老師的推介，我參加了蔣治中老師的朗誦工作坊。蔣老師的教學法與平常的並不相同，因他有一種無形的吸引力。我在整個學習過程不但愉快，而且讓我往後更有自信在人前說普通話。能在學習時享受箇中樂趣，這不就是愉快的學習嗎？



柳金龍

透過這次活動，我認識了很多普通話了得的老師和同學。他們流利的普通話，使我誤以為他們都是來自北京的，誰知道原來他們大部份都是香港人。我很詫異他們到底是怎樣練就一口字正腔圓的普通話。在學習的過程中，我發現朗誦的最大要點就是要放膽說出來。經過多次練習，我在普通話發音方面已有明顯的改善。



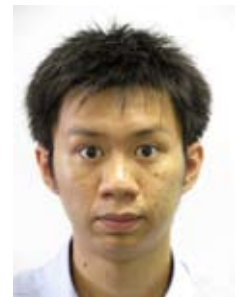
李建聰

經過老師的推介，我參加了今年的《普通話朗誦工作坊》。我懷著學習的心情去參加這活動，對此並沒有過多的期望。然而，經過數次的訓練後，我深深感受到各老師和同學的認真態度，自己因此也不敢怠慢，緊緊把握每次學習的機會。現在，我已掌握到正確的普通話發音及適當的語速和語調。這實在使我獲益良多。



陳南生

透過這次普通話朗誦活動，我從蔣治中老師身上學到了朗誦時要注意的事項，如語調、語速等。這活動讓我獲益良多。



莊文揚

從是次普通話朗誦活動，我獲益不淺。我從中學會了不少朗誦的技巧及演繹的方式。



能夠一起學習普通話朗誦，是一個很好的經驗。

Some Opinions of an English Teacher from New Zealand on HK English



Three general points to note about

HK English compared to UK/US English.

1. Sometimes **HK English has fitting words** and phrases that describe things very well. For example, 'wet market'.

But remember, these terms may not be used in the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. There, different words are used. A popular name for that kind of market is 'produce market'.

2. In English, there are often two words or phrases for the same thing:

one is **formal** and the other is **informal**. Speaking casually with friends, we normally use informal language. In a formal situation, in business, and usually in writing, we use more formal language.

Compare: (friend-friend) "Do you want a **drink** while you **eat**?"

(waiter in 5-star hotel) "Would you like a **beverage** while you **dine**?"

In HK, I often see informal English in writing. But in the UK/US, etc, formal English is normally used. e.g. HK warning sign: "Be careful! Hot water". This is fine, but in the UK/US, the sign says



3. **Prepositions** (words like in, on, at, to, for) are always difficult to master. In casual conversation, if it does not affect the meaning, it is not such a big deal. Certainly don't hold back because of one small word. Go for it, express yourself.

However, in your reports and exams, when writing an official letter, for example in business or for a job application, it is important to check that you are using the correct preposition.

Sometimes the meaning of "Verb + Preposition (A)" is different from "the same Verb + Preposition (B)".

One example I read recently was:

"The boss rewarded the employees for a trip."

This means "The employees worked hard arranging a trip (I guess they worked at a travel company), so the boss rewarded them (for that work)".

(Maybe she gave them a bonus payment). Do you think that's what the writer wanted to say?

I think the writer intended to say

"The boss rewarded the employees with a trip".

(They worked hard, so she gave them a free trip).

Reward (someone) for (a good thing they did).

Reward (someone) with (a prize).

Advice: If you don't know which preposition to use, try an online dictionary such as <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>.

The following is that website's answer for "reward":

The company rewarded him for his years of service with a grand farewell party and several presents.

Announcement

In the Dec & Feb issues, the section 'Jiayouzhan' offers interesting English and Chinese word puzzles. Students' participation has been great. Those who got the answers right will be awarded a certificate issued by the Language Centre (B418).

Winners for English Puzzle: (91301F) Ho Tsz Ho (ICT T&N 41304S) Sit Wai Kei

Winners for Putonghua Puzzle: (ENG 61388/2A) Chan Heung Kin (91301F) 何子豪 (71301F/3A) 鄭耀昌

(ICT T&N41304S) 薛偉基 (91304/2C) Chung Sze Wing (21938A) 陳裕誠 (BA-CSAP-2A) 張穎而 (21909S) 任以雯

(21917/2A) 鄭安瑤 (CSAPT/2A) 何安婷 (21941/2A) 朱錦煜 (BA-BPEM) 李雪怡 (21941F/2B) 羅嘉倫 劉家朗 吳凱琪 梁倩儀

梁國昇 吳圳鑫 (41913F/1A) 郭智洛 黃熙廷 羅嘉熙 陳煥康 胡俊威 Mak Sui Cheung 黃賢剛 吳偉文 蔡皓文 陳炳鴻 李瑞山

林鴻發 劉庚知 陳志強 黃曉敏 劉坤深 黃景興 彭嘉駿 楊德華 洪梓鏗 鍾健文 謝嘉偉 李穎鴻 陳建霖 (91363 /3A)

陳安琪 陳天龍 黎金蓮 林俊其 陳翠盈 鄭宇婷 符俊傑 (41380/3A) 薛永成 Kwok Ka Hang Pang Chui Yi

To King Lam 吳溢謙 溫嘉蔚 (21917/1B) 劉芷恩 劉欣霖 曾俊文 張芷婷 莫詠薇 (21917/1A) 陳美婷 陳琬霖 馮詠芝

鄭榮康 馮潔欣 蔡汶恩 鄭曉雯 (71301F/3A) 陳聖健 張德誠 葉志強 鄭志忠 甄兆俊 (71301F/3A) Chan Kit Fai 何敏聰

Fong Wing Hong (21904/1b) 羅成基 勞嘉偉 謝梓煒 黃曉彤 吳芷君 Poon Wing Ka 余小旋 (21909S/1) 張善宜

Lo Hei Ling 王佳欣 Lai Wing Han 陳芷恩 (71301S/1) Law Man Wai 黃偉傑 徐毅林 陳南生 邱俊賢 Chan Sing Cheung 黃豔芬

Poon Wai Lun 蔣穎思 Lo Chan Hang 李兆騏 莊文揚 戴金旺 楊雙鴻 屈駿偉 莊成就 莫敬初